

REMARKS

Reference is made to the Office Action dated 09/26/2008.

Please find an amended set of claims enclosed. The amended claim 1 adds the feature of a connector trolley, which is explained in more detail in paragraphs 0029 and 0031 in the published US-application (US 2006/0118180 A1). There are also three new claims by the amendment (claims 15-17), while claims 7 and 12 have been cancelled.

Claim rejections under 35 USC §102 /§103

In light of the amendments, it is believed that the rejections, being based in large part on features deleted from the claims, are now moot.

Discussion of the amended claims

The amended and newly added claims are believed novel and non-obvious over the cited art as discussed below.

The collector trolley is movably secured to the offloading arm such that the trolley can move back and forth along the offloading arm. Furthermore, the connector trolley and the receiving terminal are configured such that they can be connected to each other. The offloading arm is thereby able to move back and forth when there are relative movements between the first and the second structure.

The cited art does not disclose a system where the offloading arm is connected to a second structure with a trolley which is movable along the offloading arm. The offloading arm disclosed in Eagles comprises a double-boom with a main boom and an auxiliary arm which is connected to one of the pipeline trolleys on the main boom in one end and is in addition held up by a wire system arranged between the main boom and the auxiliary boom. Neither the main boom nor the auxiliary boom is connected to second structure. The pipelines are the only connections between the double-boom and the second structure. The same is true for Gill. The offloading arm disclosed does not include any connector trolley and is not connected to the second structure. Only the pipeline arranged on the offloading arm is connected to the second structure.

Since none of the cited publications discloses an offloading arm mounted on a first structure and connectable to a second structure with a connector trolley such that relative movements between the structures are allowed, the invention defined in the amended claim 1 is novel.

Applicant respectfully submits that a skilled person in the art, at the priority date and with the technical knowledge provided by the cited publications, would not have arrived at the claimed invention. The claimed invention is therefore believed to have been non-obvious for a skilled person.